(b) if so, for how long this state of affairs has been going on and what is the amount involved;

(c) the steps being taken to identify such officers, amount involved and to fix responsibility; and

(d) what precautions Government would adopt to ensure that the sum of Rs. 9,308 crore earmarked in the latest Budget to develop the NE does not meet the same fate?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) There have been alleged reports from time to time that the development funds in certain areas in the North Eastern Region are being siphoned of by underground outfits in connivance with certain officers. There is no assessment available regarding the extent of funds extorted. To deal with the problem of siphoning of or diversion of NER funds Government have from time to time advised the North Eastern States to take penal action in such cases and to ensure that the funds are used for the purpose for which they are given. The Government have taken various measures to address the problem of insurgency in the North Eastern States including the activities of extortion by the insurgents. Besides holding peace dialogue with various insurgent groups, enhancing the capabilities of the State Police and development of socio-economic infrastructure; appropriate institutional mechanism have been built in at district level, at State Hqrs. and among the States in the NE Region to share actionable intelligence inputs available with the State and Central intelligence agencies and launch coordinated counter insurgency operations against insurgent groups.

Development of NER

4032. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the P.M. has recently addressed the reconstituted North Eastern Council in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main thrust in his address; and

(c) what specific measures were outlined by the Prime Minister to ensure an integrated and holistic development of the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the 1st Meeting of the reconstituted North Eastern Council on 12th April, 2005 in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister called upon the Council to focus on the twin issues of development and security rather than function as a fund-disbursing body, mechanically allocating Plan funds to the North Eastern States. He desired that the income levels of the rural families be substantially enhanced by harnessing the vast potential of the Region in the fields of agriculture, including horticulture, medicinal and aromatic herbs and bamboo, water resources, wind-power resources, minerals etc. He expressed the hope that NEC would adopt a regional approach in its planning and work in close association with the States and the Planning Commission. He was happy that the NEC Chairman was getting an Action Plan made out for formulating a Vision Document with a 15 year perspective—Vision Document 2020. NEC must take full advantage of *Look East Policy* of the Government. ASEAN Markets provide big opportunities for NER

Allocation for NER

4033. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the budgetary allocation for DONER during the current financial year for the North-Eastern Region particularly for Nagaland for enhancement of the communication facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the budget allocation for economic development of the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of DONER is for the North Eastern Region as a whole and not State-wise. This allocation as proposed in the Budget 2005-06 is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Plan Schemes	BE 2005-06 allocations
Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)	585.00*
North Eastern Council (NEC)	461.50*
North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFCL)	22.33
Advocacy	5.00